

# Children with Special Health Care Needs

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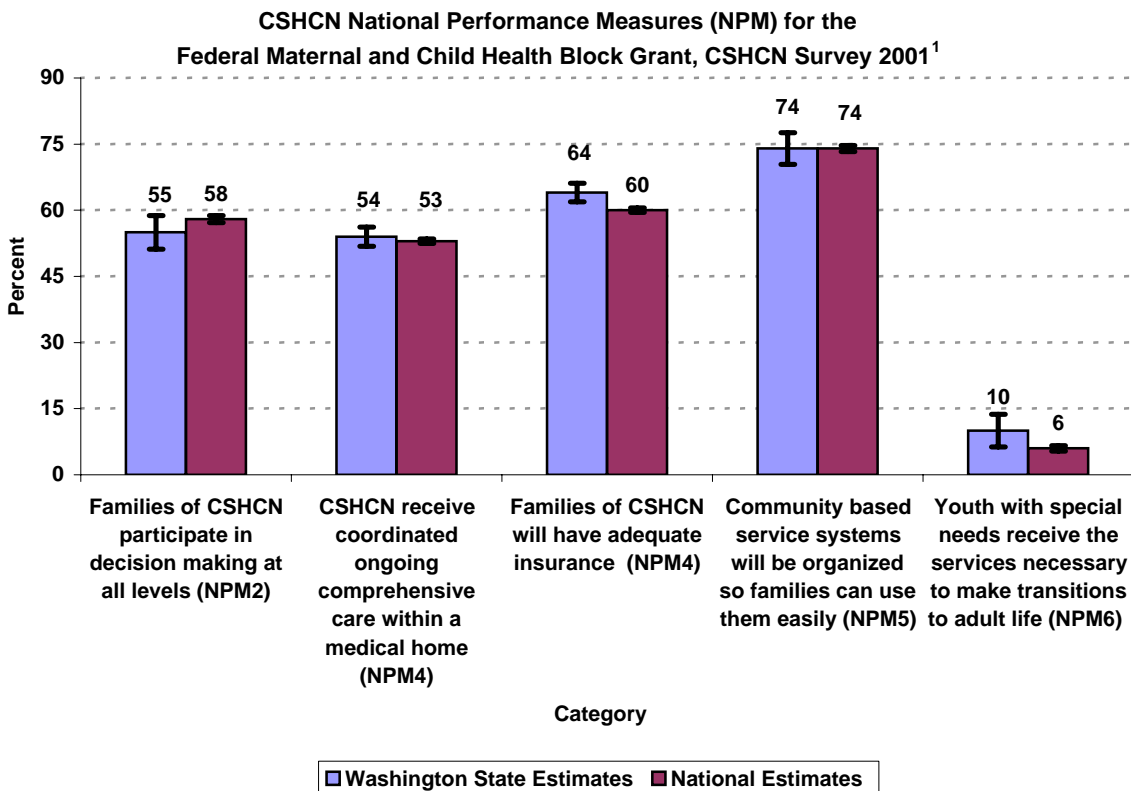
**Definition:** Children with special health care needs are those who have or are at increased risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions and who require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.<sup>a</sup>

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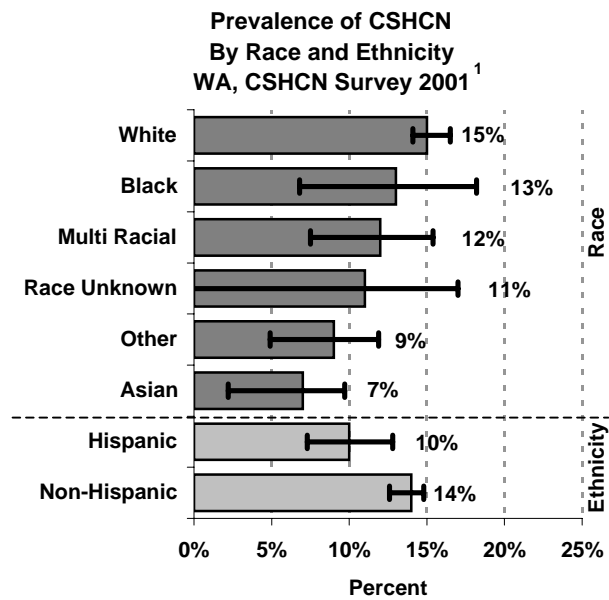
## Key Findings

- ❖ Results from the 2001 National Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Survey indicate that approximately 14% or 211,000 children ages 0-17 in Washington have special needs compared to the national average of 13%.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ In Washington state, males (16%) are more likely to have a special health care need than females (12%), and non-Hispanics (14%) are more likely to have a special need than Hispanics (10%). A significantly higher prevalence of special health care needs is reported among Washington state children who were school age compared to children under age 5. This higher prevalence may be a result of more special needs getting identified when children enter school.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ An estimated 54% of Washington's children with special needs received care within a medical home, compared to the national estimate of 53%. A medical home is an approach to providing health care in a high-quality and cost-effective manner through a partnership between families and providers. Children receive the care they need from a pediatrician and other health care professionals and are able to access all the medical and nonmedical services needed to help them achieve their maximum potential.<sup>1,b</sup>
- ❖ In 2002, approximately 12,000 children were enrolled in local CSHCN Programs in Washington State. Local CSHCN Programs provide a variety of services, including care coordination, assessment, and information referral. Local programs only interact with a small percentage of the estimated population because of capacity issues in the service delivery system.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ In Washington state, children with special needs were significantly more likely to be adequately insured for the services they needed, compared to children with special needs nationally. Services most reported as being needed by children with special needs in Washington state are prescription medications, dental care and routine care. Fifty two percent of these children needed to see a specialist and about 28% needed mental health care.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Based on the 2002 Consumer Assessment of Health Plans (CAHPS) of Washington Medicaid enrollees, there is a uniform distribution of children with a chronic condition and children without a chronic condition across the CSHCN regions in Washington State.<sup>2</sup>

## Children with Special Health Care Needs (cont.)



## Race and Ethnicity



## Age



## Children with Special Health Care Needs (cont.)

**Table 1. Differences in health services between CSHCN and non-CSHCN, 2002 Washington State Medicaid Client Satisfaction Survey<sup>2</sup>**

(Note: All differences reported below are statistically significant)

|  | <b>CSHCN</b>       | <b>Not CSHCN</b>   |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | <b>Estimated %</b> | <b>Estimated %</b> |
| <b>Getting Needed Care</b>   |                    |                    |
| Big problem getting care you needed*                                     | 5%                 | 2%                 |
| Big problem getting child's medicine*                                    | 8%                 | 3%                 |
| Big problem getting OT, PT, Speech*                                      | 22%                | 13%                |
| Big problem getting needed referral to specialist*                       | 14%                | 9%                 |
| Got appointment for routine care**                                       | 13%                | 15%                |
| <b>Rating Providers/ Plan</b>  |                    |                    |
| Specialty doctor rated 0-5 on scale of 10 (best)***                      | 11%                | 8%                 |
| Personal Doctor or nurse rated 0-5 on scale of 10 (best)***              | 8%                 | 6%                 |
| All experiences with child's health plan rated 0-5 on scale of 10 (best) | 13%                | 8%                 |
| <b>Doctor's communication</b>  |                    |                    |
| Providers sometimes or never respect what you say**                      | 8%                 | 6%                 |
| Child not able to talk with provider about his/ her health care          | 24%                | 39%                |
| <b>Care Coordination</b>   |                    |                    |
| No one from plan helps coordinate care from multiple providers           | 36%                | 47%                |

\*CSHCN were statistically significantly more likely than non-CSHCN to report this issue as a big problem compared to a small or no problem.

\*\*Sometimes or never versus usually or always

\*\*\* Rated 05 versus 6-10 with 0 being worst and 10 being best

### Data Sources

- <sup>1</sup> 2001 National CSHCN Survey, Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, Maryland, April 28, 2003.
- <sup>2</sup> 2002 Consumer Assessment of Health Plans Survey, Child Survey, Analyses prepared by Ginny Sharp and Jacquie Stock, Center for Children with Special Needs, Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, under contract with the State Department of Health CSHCN Program.
- <sup>3</sup> 2002 Annual Count, Child Health Intake Form (CHIF), Washington State Department of Health

### Endnotes

- <sup>a</sup> Maternal and Child Health Bureau Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs definition
- <sup>b</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP definition, 2004.